



Office of Congressman Jeff Flake

News Release

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CONTACT: Matthew Specht (202) 225-2635

Congressman Flake Reintroduces Legislation Easing Environmental Regulations in Disaster Areas *Bill Will Help Arizona Forests Devastated By Wildfires*

Washington, D.C. - Arizona Congressman Jeff Flake, a member of the House Resources Committee, today reintroduced legislation that eases the environmental regulations on land that has been declared a federal disaster area. Congressman Flake first introduced the Federally Declared Disaster Area Exemption Act (H.R. 67) last year after Arizona's devastating fire season.

Congressmen Hayworth and Renzi, who both serve on the House Resources Committee with Congressman Flake, are cosponsors of the bill.

The Federally Declared Disaster Area Exemption Act ensures:

- Exemption of any federally declared disaster areas from environmental regulations and appeals for a period of up to two years
- Freedom to apply necessary cleanup techniques quickly
- The ability to use commercial cleanup
- Opportunity for commercially funded cleanup, rather than taxpayer-funded cleanup

"Because federal land managers must continue to jump through regulatory hoops even after land has been declared a disaster area, taxpayers end up bearing the brunt of cleanup activities after a disaster," said Flake. **"The Federally Declared Disaster Area Exemption Act expedites cleanup by ensuring quick, efficient and proper rehabilitation of disaster areas."**

H.R. 67 has been referred to the House Resources Committee and the House Agriculture Committee. Congressman Flake is hopeful that the committees will quickly take action on the bill.

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